

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17-22, 24 and 25 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 12, 17, 24 and 25 have been amended, and Claims 6, 7, 13-16 and 26-28 have been cancelled, herewith. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants request entry of this amendment after final as placing this case in condition for allowance, as further described below.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

Claims 1-6, 9, 11, 13-14, 16-22, 24 and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Maxwell, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,973,417, hereafter referred to as Maxwell). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable Claim 7, and therefore amended Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Dependent Claims 2-5, 9 and 11 are similarly in condition for allowance.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the features of allowable Claim 23, and therefore amended Claim 17 is now in condition for allowance. Dependent Claims 18-22 and 24 are similarly in condition for allowance.

Claims 6, 13-16 and 26-28 have been cancelled herewith without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants are not conceding in this application that these Claims 6, 13-16 and 26-28, prior to their being cancelled herewith, are not patentable over the cited art provided by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner in the Office Action dated April 3, 2007. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-6, 9, 11, 13-14, 16-22, 24 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been overcome.

II. Objection to Claims

Claims 7-8, 12, 23 and 25 were objected to, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten to be in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable Claim 7, and therefore Claim 7 is being cancelled herewith, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Claim 8 has been rewritten to be in independent form, and is therefore in condition for allowance.

Allowable Claim 12 has been rewritten to be in independent form, and is therefore in condition for allowance.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the features of allowable Claim 23, and therefore Claim 23 is being cancelled herewith, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Claim 25 has been rewritten to be in independent form, and is therefore in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

As all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, this case is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Wayne P. Bailey/

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